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James Woodward
Administrative Chaplain, Hancock
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Distinguished Civilian Leadership Award

James "The Barber" Woodward's contribution to the Findlay/Hancock County community goes well beyond the successful barber shop he co-owned for nearly 40 years and his active role in the Findlay Lions Club for 29 years. His passion for helping his community began in the 1970s, when he led a group of citizens to bring back Findlay's proclaimed title of "Flag City USA." After starting an adopt-a-flag program and collecting money to purchase flags for downtown, Mr. Woodward had more than 200 holes drilled in the sidewalks, where business owners continue to place flag poles each day. In 1988, then-Vice President George H.W. Bush recognized Mr. Woodward at the first Flag City Festival as the man who led the charge.

While serving as the Hancock County Justice Center's barber in 2000, Mr. Woodward was inspired to make a difference in inmates' lives. He started leading voluntary, monthly motivational programs and weekly Bible studies where he continues to make inmates feel like a valuable part of the community and encourages them to make positive changes in their lives.

Mr. Woodward has received numerous awards throughout his years of dedicated service and volunteer work in the Findlay/Hancock community, including the Flag City Award, Hancock County Sheriff's Award, the Findlay Citizen of the Year Award, and the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, the highest award a Lions Club member can receive for exemplary humanitarian service. But perhaps just as important are the letters he frequently receives from inmates thanking him for believing in them.